

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Laurence Thomas "Larry" Johnson was born in Lemmon, South Dakota, to Juell and Helen Johnson, and with the exception of one year that Larry spent at Fort Lewis, Washington, he has been a life-long resident of the great state of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Larry is a member of a musically gifted family, son of a Governor's Awards in the Arts winner, husband to Mary Jo, a superlative musician in her own right, and father to musical sons, Christopher Thomas and Thomas Michael; and,

Whereas, Larry has served his students, the music community, and the people of South Dakota as a teacher, performer, and arts supporter throughout his 35-year career as a music educator, and has mentored 64 South Dakota All-State Band musicians, including at least one student in each of his 18 years as Pierre Riggs High School Band Director; and,

Whereas, Larry's commanding presence and vocal authority can strike terror in the hearts of misdirected high school students, as well as seemingly well-adjusted, confident adults; and,

Whereas, Larry spent five summers directing, performing, and constructing sets at the Black Hills Playhouse, at one point even delivering a "fag bull of gold," and,

Whereas, In his retirement, Larry plans to spend some well-deserved time on the beautiful Missouri River and even more tearing up the links—so much time, in fact, that he may be able to construct a new golf course with the divots he carves out of the old one; and,

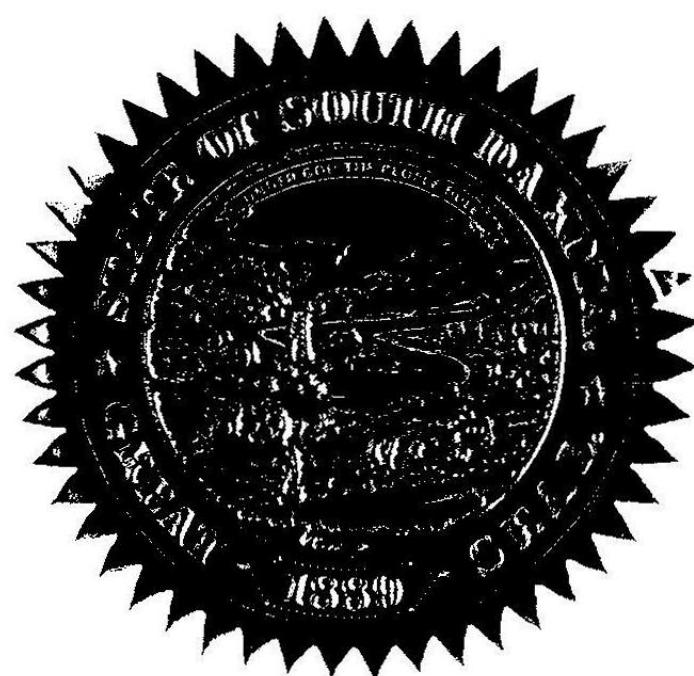
Whereas, Larry will conduct his last high school band concert on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, followed by a Riggs High School alumni group concert and retirement reception for Larry:

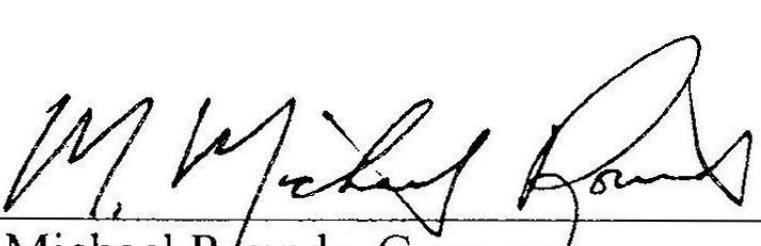
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 13, 2008, as

LARRY JOHNSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with his family, colleagues, students, and friends in wishing him a fulfilling and happy retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.




M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State